

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 SAJ-01 SAM-01 BIB-01

ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 191525Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7727

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF

SUBJ: PRAVDA ME EXPERT ON LEBANESE SITUATION

1. ON AUG 18 EMBOFF CALLED ON PAVEL DEMCHENKO, CHIEF OF AFRO-ASIAN DEPT OF PRAVDA. ON LEBANESE SITUATION, DEMCHENKO SEEMED SOMEWHAT SHAKEN BY FALL OF TAL ZAATAR, SAID PLO DID NOT FEEL IT WAS SUCH A BIG MILITARY DEFEAT (BUT IMPLIED HE THOUGHT IT WAS) AND AGREED IT WAS A DEFINITE POLITICAL DEFEAT WITH AS YET UNFORESEEABLE CONSEQUENCES FOR PALESTINAIANS AND FOR ARAFAT. HE SAID PRAVDA HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER AND HOW TO PLAY TAL ZAATAR STORY. SOME ATROCITY-TYPE PICTURES HAD BEEN SELECTED AND PERHAPS THESE WOULD BE PRINTED, HE SAID.

2. DEMCHENKO SAID LEBANESE CIVIL WAS WAS "TRAGIC" OF
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NO BENEFIT TO ANYONE EXCEPT ISRAELIS. HE EXPRESSED

SOME BITTERNESS AT "OPEN SECRET" OF U.S. TOLERATION OF
ISRAELI ARMS SUPPLY ACTIVITIES, SAID ISRAELI NAVAL
BLOCKADE WAS "DANGEROUS".

3. HE ADMITTED SOVIETS FACED REAL DILEMMA ABOUT WHAT
TO DO IN LEBANON TO CARRY OUT AND ADVANCE THEIR
OFFICIAL POSITION. BEST HE COULD THINK UP, HE SAID, WAS
YET ANOTHER SOVIET STATEMENT, BUT HE AGREED THIS ALONG
WOULD NOT HELP PALESTINIANS VERY MUCH. HE SAID
LEBANESE PRESIDENT-ELECT SARKIS WAS MAN OF CONSERVATIVE,
FINANCIAL BACKGROUND, BUT SINCE HE WAS, ODDLY ENOUGH,
ACCEPTABLE TO LEFT, MAYBE HIS ACCESSION TO OFFICE IN
SEPTEMBER WOULD PROVIDE OCCASION TO PULL LEBANESE
POLITICAL FACTIONS TOGETHER AND STOP BLOODSHED.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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